Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method that ensures policy coherence among a group of peer devices, comprising:

detecting an addition of a new policy version;

generating a message containing the newly added policy version in response to detecting the addition of the new policy version; and

transferring the message to the peer devices.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the newly added policy version is a policy that relates to at least one of system administration, system security, command and control, and courses of action.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether a policy version has become newly active;

generating a second message containing an indication of the newly active policy version; and

sending the second message to the peer devices.

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4.   (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

storing, in response to a policy version becoming newly active, an identifier

of the newly active policy in an active policy database, the active policy database storing a

list of active policy identifiers.

5.   (currently amended) A system that ensures policy coherence among a group

of peer devices, comprising:

means for detecting an addition of one or more new policy versions;

means for generating a message containing the newly added one or more

policy versions in response to detecting the addition of one or more policy versions; and

means for transferring the message to the peer devices.

6.   (original) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for

controlling at least one processor to perform a method that ensures policy coherence among

a group of peer devices, the method comprising:

determining whether a policy has been added;

generating, in response to a policy being added, a message containing the

added policy; and

sending the message to the peer devices.

7.   (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 6 wherein the method

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further comprises:

determining whether a version of one of a group of policies has become

active;

generating a second message containing the active version;

transferring the second message to the peer devices.

8.   (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the method

further comprises:

storing an identifier of the newly active policy in an active policy database,

the active policy database including a list of active policy identifiers.

9.   (original) A policy server comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions; and

a processor configured to execute the instructions to determine whether one

or more policy versions have been added, generate, in response to a policy version being

added, a message containing the added policy version, and transfer the message to a group

of peer devices.

10.   (original) The policy server of claim 9 wherein the processor is further

configured to:

detect a policy version becoming newly active,

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generate, in response to the detecting, a second message containing the

newly active policy version, and

transmit the second message to the group of peer devices.

11.   (original) The policy server of claim 10 wherein the memory is further

configured to:

store an active policy database containing a list of identifiers of active

policies.

12.   (original) The policy server of claim 11 wherein the processor is further

configured to:

store, in response to a policy becoming active, an identifier of the newly

active policy in the active policy database.

13.   (original) A method for distributing policies in a network having at least one

anonymous policy server and at least one anonymous peer device, comprising:

requesting a policy from the anonymous policy server;

determining, via the anonymous policy server, whether an active version of

the policy exists; and

transferring, when an active version of the policy is determined to exist, the

active policy version from the anonymous policy server to the anonymous peer device.

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14.   (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the requesting includes:

generating, via the anonymous peer device, a policy request, the policy

request containing a policy identifier; and

transferring the policy request to the anonymous policy server.

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15.   (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the determining includes:

comparing the identifier in the policy request to a list of active policy

identifiers.

16.   (original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

receiving, via the anonymous peer device, a policy;

determining whether the received policy is the requested policy;

discarding the received policy when the received policy is not the requested

policy; and

implementing the received policy when the received policy is the requested

policy.

17.   (original) A network comprising:

at least one anonymous peer device configured to:

request a policy from at least one anonymous policy server,

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determine whether a received policy is of a desired policy class, and

implement the received policy when the received policy is an active

policy of the desired policy class; and

at least one anonymous policy server configured to:

receive the request from the at least one anonymous peer device,

determine whether any version of the policy requested exists, and

transfer all versions of the policy to the peer device, indicating the

active version, if any version is determined to exist.

18.   (original) The network of claim 17 wherein the at least one anonymous peer

device is further configured to:

discard the received policy when the received policy is not of the requested

policy class.

19.   (original) The network of claim 17 wherein, when requesting, the at least

one anonymous peer device is configured to:

generate a policy request, the policy request containing an identifier that

identifies the requested policy, and

transfer the policy request to the at least one anonymous policy server.

20.   (original) The network of claim 18 wherein, when determining, the at least

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one anonymous policy server is configured to:

compare the identifier in the policy request to a list of active policy

identifiers.

21.   (original) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for

controlling at least one processor to perform a method that distributes policies in a network

having a policy server and a peer device, the method comprising:

receiving one or more requests, each request indicating a policy of interest to

the peer device;

determining whether an active version of each of the policies exists; and

transferring, when an active version of at least one of the policies exists, the

at least one policy from the policy server to the peer device.

22.   (original) A computer-readable medium having a database structure

comprising:

a policy identification field that stores an identifier of a policy;

a version field that stores an identifier of a policy version; and

a policy content field that stores a content of a policy.

23.   (original) A computer-readable medium having a database structure

comprising:

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a policy identification field that stores an identifier of a policy; and

a version field that stores an identifier of an active policy version.

24.   (original) A method for implementing policies, comprising:

receiving a message, the message containing an identifier and one or more versions of a policy;

determining whether the identifier is in a list of policy identifiers;

discarding the message when the identifier is absent from the list; and

implementing an active version of the one or more policies when the identifier is present in the list.

25.   (original) A system for implementing policies comprising:

a memory configured to store instructions and an active policy database, the active policy database containing a list of policy identifiers; and

a processor configured to execute the instructions to receive a message, the message containing an identifier and one or more versions of a policy, compare the identifier to the list of policy identifiers, discard the message when the identifier does not match a policy identifier in the list, and implement an active version of the policy when the identifier matches a policy identifier in the list.

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